

REMARKS

Claims 4 and 5 have been amended. Claims 19-20 have been added. Claims 1-20 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The rejections and objections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1. Entry of the Request for Continued Examination and Amendment filed August 4th, 2003 is noted and appreciated.

2-3. Claims 1-5, 7-8 and 16-18 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,944,547 to Golab et al. (hereinafter “Golab.”).

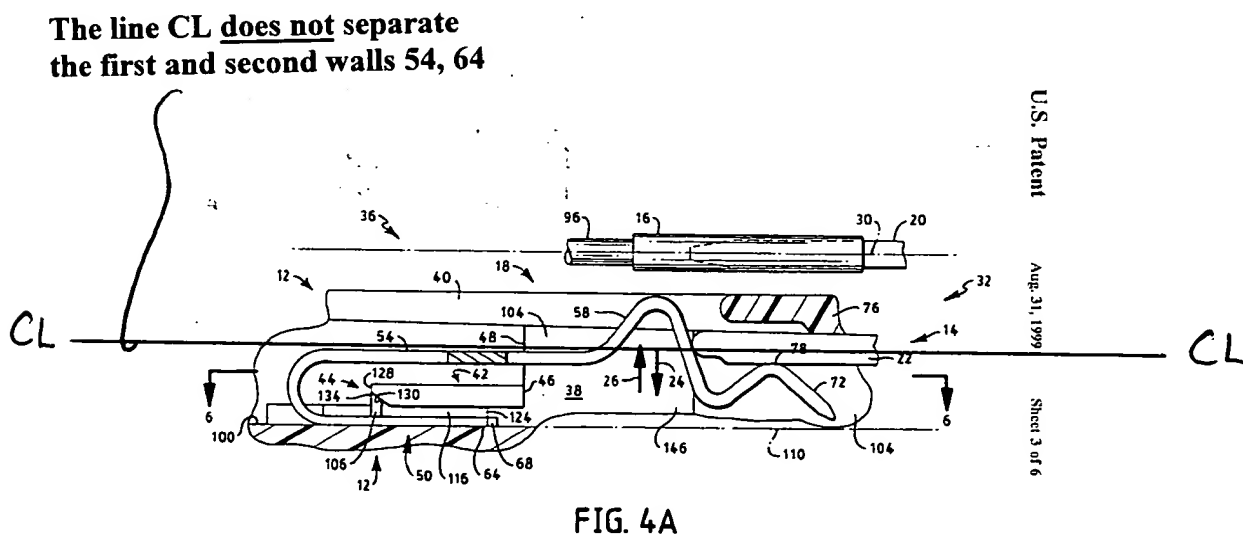
Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a socket connector that includes:

“a second contact part mounted within said housing to nominally contact said U-shaped first contact part in order provide an electrical connection between said first and second contact parts, wherein when the plug connector is inserted along the center axis into said socket receiving aperture said first wall flexes radially with respect to the center axis breaking the electrical connection between said U-shaped first contact part and said second contact part.” (cl. 1, emphasis added).

The Official Action alleges that Golab teaches “*a U-shaped first contact part (18) mounted within the housing (12) and including first and second walls (54,64) that are nominally parallel and separated by the center axis or receiving aperture axis (center of aperture 38); and a second contact part (16) mounted within the housing (12) to nominally contact the u-shaped first contact part (18) in order [to] provide an electrical connection between the first and second contact parts*” (Official Action, pg. 3). The Official Action further alleges that “*...wherein when*

the plug connector (22) is inserted along the center axis or receiving aperture axis (center of aperture 38) breaking the electrical connection between the U-shaped first contact part (18) and the second contact part (16).” (Official Action, pg. 3). However, the contention in the Official Action that the plug connector (22) is inserted along a center axis or receiving aperture axis is incorrect and contrary to the subject matter disclosed by a fair and proper reading to Golab. Specifically, as shown in FIGs. 4A and 4B, the plug connector (22) is clearly not inserted between *first and second walls (54,64)*, as alleged in the Official Action. As shown in FIGs. 4A and 4B of Golab, the plug connector (22) is inserted along an axis that is outside of the *first and second walls (54,64)*. FIG. 4A of Golab is reproduced below for convenience and has been marked up to show that the axis CL along which the plug connector is inserted does not separate the first and second walls (54, 64) – note the location of the plug connector (22) with respect to the first and second walls (54,64).



U.S. Patent
Aug. 31, 1999
Sheet 3 of 6
5,944,547

In addition, as shown in FIG. 4A, the axis along which the plug connector 22 is inserted is clearly not the center of aperture 38 – the plug connector 22 is inserted along the periphery of the aperture 38 adjacent to retaining bar 76 (also see FIG. 3 of Golab).

A 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection requires that a single reference teach each and every element of the claimed invention. For at least any of the reasons set forth above, Golab is incapable of anticipating claim 1.

Claim 16

Claim 16 recites a socket connector that mates with a plug connector to establish an electrical plug connector assembly. The socket connector includes:

“a U-shaped first contact part mounted within said housing and including first and second walls that are nominally parallel and separated by the receiving aperture axis; and

a second contact part mounted within said housing to nominally contact said U-shaped first contact part in order provide an electrical connection between said first and second contact parts, wherein when the plug connector is inserted along the receiving aperture axis into said socket receiving aperture said first wall flexes radially with respect to the receiving aperture axis breaking the electrical connection between said U-shaped first contact part and said second contact part.” (cl. 16, emphasis added).

As set forth above with respect to claim 1, Golab neither discloses nor suggests a socket connector configured and arranged such that the first wall flexes radially when the plug connector is inserted into the receiving aperture axis, which separates the first and second walls. As shown in FIGs. 4A and 4B of Golab, the plug connector 22 clearly does not separate elements 54, 64 as alleged in the Official Action.

A 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection requires that a single reference teach each and every element of the claimed invention. For at least any of the reasons set forth above, Golab is incapable of anticipating claim 16.

4. The indication that claims 10-15 are allowable is noted and appreciated.
5. The indication that claims 6 and 9 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten into independent claim format is noted and appreciated. However, it is respectfully submitted that rewriting claims 6 and 9 into independent form is not required to secure their allowance, since claim 1 is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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